

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 155

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to recognize Colonel Many-Bears Grinder,
Tennessee Army National Guard, for her
outstanding and distinguished military career.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize members of the armed forces who have established distinguished records during their military careers and who have demonstrated great courage and competence in service to their country; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Colonel Many-Bears Grinder, who will retire from her post as the Director of Logistics for the Tennessee Army National Guard on April 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Grinder has served her country with courage and an unfailing sense of duty as an enlisted soldier, an active duty officer, and a combat veteran, and she has rendered sterling service in many positions, including Director of Logistics, Director of Personnel, Recruiting and Retention Manager, and Assistant Inspector General; and

WHEREAS, honorably answering the call of duty, Many-Bears Grinder bravely volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from May 2007 through April 2008, expertly serving as the Head of Secretariat for the International Police Coordination Board and working with Afghans from the minister level to police trainees to diplomats and police officers from the international community; and

WHEREAS, a highly trained professional, Colonel Grinder holds a Masters of Science degree in Human Resource Development from the University of Tennessee and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from the University of New York, Regents College; her military education includes a Masters degree in Strategic Studies as well as a senior Staff College Diploma from the prestigious Army War College; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Grinder has lent her extraordinary talents to numerous military and veterans organizations, including serving as the chair of the Sumner County Veterans Park Committee, and is a member of the Military Officers' Association, the Association of the United States Army, the National Guard Association of the United States and Tennessee, the American Legion, and the Vietnam Veterans of America; and

WHEREAS, Many-Bears Grinder is also an active member of the Rehoboth United Methodist Church in Gallatin, where she has faithfully served her Lord for many years; and

WHEREAS, because of her unparalleled commitment to honoring our state's veterans and their selfless sacrifices, Colonel Grinder was recently named Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs by Governor Bill Haslam; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished military career, Colonel Grinder has earned a plethora of honors and awards, including the Army Achievement Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Tennessee Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Legion of Merit, and she was also inducted into the Officer Candidates School Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Many-Bears Grinder is most grateful for the love and support she shares with her husband of over fifteen years, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Ernie Grinder, and they are both very proud of sons Adam, a trooper with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and Sam, an aviator with the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Grinder exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable military career, Many-Bears Grinder has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her superiors, her peers, and those under her command; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should thank her on behalf of the citizens of the United States of America and the State of Tennessee for her courage and sacrifices to preserve the blessed freedoms and liberty we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Colonel Many-Bears Grinder on her outstanding career with the Tennessee Army National Guard, praise her for her devotion to her country, and extend to her our best wishes as she continues her service to the good people of Tennessee as Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.